

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1792

To provide crime-fighting scholarships to certain law enforcement officers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. ETHERIDGE, and Mr. HOLDEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide crime-fighting scholarships to certain law enforcement officers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Bipartisan Rural Law
5 Enforcement Crime-Fighting Scholarship Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) the organization of illegal gangs and many
9 systems of illegal drug trafficking and distribution

1 have become increasingly similar in both urban and
2 rural areas of the United States;

3 (2) crime- and drug-ridden neighborhoods in
4 both urban and rural areas demonstrate many of the
5 same characteristics;

6 (3) many law enforcement agencies in urban
7 areas utilize the most modern technology and cut-
8 ting-edge police tactics to fight gangs, abolish illegal
9 drug trafficking and distribution systems, and create
10 safer neighborhoods and communities; and

11 (4) law enforcement agencies in rural areas
12 may improve their efforts in the community if offi-
13 cers have an opportunity to participate in a program
14 permitting them to conduct firsthand observations of
15 the strategies and technologies utilized by Federal
16 and urban law enforcement agencies to fight gangs,
17 abolish illegal drug trafficking and distribution sys-
18 tems, and create safer neighborhoods and commu-
19 nities.

20 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RURAL LAW ENFORCE-**
21 **MENT CRIME-FIGHTING SCHOLARSHIP PRO-**
22 **GRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, through
24 the Office of Justice Programs and in consultation with
25 the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement at the

1 University of Arkansas, shall establish a rural law enforce-
2 ment scholarship program by providing grants to rural law
3 enforcement agencies and consortia of law enforcement
4 agencies. The grants shall be used to allow law enforce-
5 ment officers to observe the advanced strategies and tech-
6 nologies employed by Federal and urban law enforcement
7 agencies to fight gangs, abolish illegal drug trafficking and
8 distribution systems, and create safer neighborhoods and
9 communities.

10 (b) SITE IDENTIFICATION AND NOTIFICATION.—

11 (1) IDENTIFICATION.—Before grants are
12 awarded and not later than 90 days after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General
14 shall identify Federal and urban law enforcement
15 agencies willing to allow rural law enforcement offi-
16 cers to observe the strategies and technologies used
17 for fighting crime and creating safer neighborhoods
18 and communities.

19 (2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 120 days
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the At-
21 torney General shall publish in the Federal Register
22 a list of the urban and Federal agencies identified
23 under paragraph (1).

24 (c) GRANT AMOUNTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
2 determine the appropriate amount of each grant
3 award after considering the relative costs associated
4 with each observation opportunity.

5 (2) MAXIMUM GRANT AWARD.—Each grant
6 award may not exceed \$2,500 for an individual rural
7 law enforcement agency and \$7,500 for a consor-
8 tium of law enforcement agencies.

9 (d) PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS.—Officers se-
10 lected for a rural law enforcement scholarship may partici-
11 pate in a particular observation opportunity for a max-
12 imum period of 1 month. Not more than 1 officer from
13 the same rural law enforcement agency may participate.
14 In cases in which 1 or more rural law enforcement agen-
15 cies establish a consortium, not more than 1 officer from
16 each agency in the consortium may participate.

17 (e) USES OF FUNDS.—Subject to subsections (c) and
18 (d), a grant received under this Act may be used to pay
19 the costs of official travel, lodging, and expenses that law
20 enforcement officers incur while participating in the pro-
21 gram.

22 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION.**

23 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
24 under this Act, a rural law enforcement agency, on its own
25 behalf or for a consortium of law enforcement agencies

1 shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time,
2 in such manner, and containing such information as the
3 Secretary may reasonably require.

4 (b) SELECTION.—The Attorney General shall select
5 grant recipients by using the following criteria:

6 (1) CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.—The extent of vio-
7 lent crime, drug trafficking and distribution, drug
8 use, and other major indicators of crime that threat-
9 en the public safety in the area served by the rural
10 law enforcement agency, as identified in studies con-
11 ducted by the Department of Justice and in State
12 applications submitted under part E of title I of the
13 Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of
14 1968 for the Edward Byrne Memorial State and
15 Local Law Enforcement Assistance Programs.

16 (2) PROGRAM BENEFITS.—The extent to which
17 the observation opportunity is likely to provide law
18 enforcement officers who participate in the scholar-
19 ship program with knowledge or skills that can be
20 successfully employed in the area that the rural law
21 enforcement agency serves.

22 **SEC. 5. REPORTING.**

23 Not later than 3 years after the date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to
25 the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-

1 representatives and the Senate a report regarding the success
2 of participating rural law enforcement agencies in employ-
3 ing strategies or technology observed during participation
4 in the rural law enforcement scholarship program.

5 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

6 For purposes of this Act:

7 (1) The term “consortium of law enforcement
8 agencies” means not less than 1 rural law enforce-
9 ment agency that executes an agreement with other
10 law enforcement agencies which may include sheriff,
11 highway patrol, and police departments that seek to
12 organize more comprehensive crime-fighting strate-
13 gies in rural areas.

14 (2) The term “law enforcement officer” has the
15 same meaning given such term in section 1204(5) of
16 title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe
17 Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796b(5)).

18 (3) The term “metropolitan statistical area”
19 has the same meaning given such term by the Bu-
20 reau of the Census.

21 (4) The term “rural law enforcement agency”
22 means a law enforcement agency that serves—

23 (A) a city, town, township, borough, or vil-
24 lage outside a metropolitan statistical area;

1 (B) a city, town, township, borough, or vil-
2 lage of less than 10,000 residents; or

3 (C) a county or parish of less than 80,000
4 residents.

5 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 There are authorized to be appropriated \$12,000,000
7 to carry out this Act for each of the fiscal years 2000
8 through 2005.

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